

What is claimed is:

1. An image communication apparatus for use in an image communication network system including a computer network being able to transmit and receive an image, based on a network address, a first telephone network being able to transmit and receive said image based on a first telephone number, a second telephone network being able to transmit and receive said image based on a second telephone number, a first address supplying device connected to said computer network adapted to store correspondence between said first telephone number and said network address corresponding to said first telephone number, and a second address supplying device connected to said computer network adapted to store correspondence between said second telephone number and said network address corresponding to said second telephone number, comprising:

an input section to input either of said first telephone number or said second telephone number provided to another image communication apparatus to which said image is to be transmitted;

a judging section to judge whether said telephone number input through said input section is able to be used;

a number transmitting section to transmit said input telephone number, based on a judgement result by said judging section, to either of said first address supplying device or said second address supplying device;

an address receiving section to receive, in response to said telephone number fed from said telephone number transmitting section, a network address corresponding to said telephone number; and

an image transmitting section to transmit, based on said network address received by said address receiving section, said image to said another

image communication apparatus through said computer network.

2. The image communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said judging section judges whether said input telephone number has been registered.

3. The image communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said judging section judges whether said input telephone number is said first telephone number or said second telephone number.

4. The image communication system according to Claim 1, wherein said image communication apparatus is provided with said first address supplying device and said second address supplying as function sections of said image communication apparatus.

5. The image communication device according to Claim 1, further comprising a second image transmitting section to transmit images to said another image communication apparatus through either of said telephone network for use in said first telephone number or said telephone network for use in second telephone number.

6. The image communication device according to Claim 5, further comprising a signal receiving section to receive, when said second image transmitting section transmits a first image, using either of said first telephone number or said second telephone number, to said another image communication apparatus through either of said telephone network for use in said first telephone number or said telephone network for use in second

telephone number, a signal containing a computer address provided to said image communication apparatus on a receiver side which is returned, in response to said transmitting of said image, from said another image communication apparatus and wherein said first image transmitting section is adapted to transmit a second image contained in said signal received by said signal receiving section, based on said computer address of said another image communication apparatus, to said another image communication apparatus through said computer network.

7. The image communication apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising a storage section to store correspondence between said telephone number used by said image transmitting section when said first image is transmitted and received through either of said telephone network for use in said first telephone number or said telephone network for use in said second telephone number and said network address of said another image communication apparatus received by said signal receiving section when said first image is received.

8. The image communication apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said second image transmitting section, when said first image transmitting section fails to transmit said image based on said computer address through said computer network, transmits said image using either of said first telephone number or said second telephone number through either of said telephone network for use in said first telephone number or said telephone network for use in said second telephone number.

9. The image communication apparatus according to Claim 5, further

comprising an operation section to designate to which priority is given, transmission by said first image transmitting section through said computer network or transmission by said second image transmitting section through said telephone network.

10. The image communication apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said operation section, when said first image transmitting section fails to transmit said image through said computer network, designates whether said image is to be transmitted by said second image transmitting section through said telephone network.

11. The image communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said first telephone network is an inside telephone network that is able to transmit and receive said image based on said first telephone number being said inside telephone number and said second telephone network is an outside telephone network that is able to transmit and receive said image based on said second telephone number being said outside telephone number and wherein said computer network is either of an intranet or the Internet that is able to transmit and receive said image based on said network address being an IP (Internet Protocol) address.

12. The image communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said number transmitting section transmits said input number through said computer network and said address receiving section receives said network address through said computer network.

13. An image communication system comprising:



image to said another image communication apparatus through said computer network.

14. The image communication system according to Claim 13, wherein said judging section judges whether said input number has been registered.

15. The image communication system according to Claim 13, wherein said judging section judges whether said input number is said first telephone number or said second telephone number.

16. The image communication system according to Claim 13, wherein said image communication system is provided with, as its function section, either of said first address supplying device or said second address supplying device.

17. The image communication system according to Claim 16, wherein said image communication apparatus further includes an operation section to designate either of said image communication apparatus having either of said first address supplying device or said second address supplying device as a device from which said network address is acquired.

18. The image communication system according to Claim 13, wherein said number transmitting section transmits said input number through said computer network and wherein said address receiving section receives said network address through said computer network.

19. An image communication method comprising for carrying out image communication with another image communication apparatus, based on a

computer address, through a computer network, comprising:

receiving a telephone number of said another image communication apparatus;

judging whether said received telephone number is a first telephone number or a second telephone number;

acquiring a computer address corresponding to said first telephone number, when said telephone number is judged to be said first telephone number, by referring to a first table showing correspondence between said first telephone number and said computer address;

acquiring a computer address corresponding to said second telephone number, when said telephone number is judged to be said second telephone number, by referring to a second table showing correspondence between said second telephone number and said computer address; and

transmitting said image to said another communication apparatus based on said acquired computer address.

20. The image communication method according to Claim 19, further comprising:

second transmitting said image to said another image communication apparatus, based on said first telephone number, through a first telephone network and a second telephone network; and

selectively performing either of said first transmitting and said second transmitting.

21. The image communication method according to Claim 19, wherein, in said selectively performing either of said first transmitting and said second transmitting, priority is given to said first transmitting rather than to said

second transmitting.

22. The image communication method according to Claim 19, wherein, in selectively performing either of said first transmitting and said second transmitting, when a failure occurs in said first transmitting, said second transmitting is performed.

23. The image communication method according to Claim 19, further comprising:

receiving a signal which is to be received from said another image communication apparatus through either of said first telephone network or said second telephone network and which contains a computer address of said another image communication apparatus;

extracting a computer address of said another image communication apparatus from said received signal; and

wherein said first transmitting is used to transmit said image, based on said extracted computer address, through said computer network to said another image communication apparatus.